

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00

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AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1 5 2

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PDEV SHUM TO

SUBJ: CELEBRATION OF THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TOGOLESE

PAESIDENT EYADEMA'S RULE

BEGIN SUMMARY: CELEBRATION OF ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY ARMY TAKEOVER  
OF POLITICAL POWER ON JANUARY 13, 1967 TOOK PLACE IN RELATIVELY  
LOW-KEY MANNER. THEME OF CELEBRATION EMPHASIZED DEVELOPMENT,  
BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, SINCE EYADEMA BECAME PRESIDENT.  
EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH PAST DEVELOPMENT, THE REGIME NOTED  
ITS INTENTION OF MOVING INTO LARGER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN  
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FUTURE. DEDICATION OF SWISS-FINANCED 120 MEGAWATT POWER PLANT  
EMPHASIZED THIS CONCEPT. CENTERPIECE OF CELEBRATION WAS INAUGU-  
RATION MILLION TON PER ANNUM REFINERY. PUBLIC CEREMONIES WERE  
DOMINATED BY THEMES OF POLITICAL ANIMATION AND RAISING OF  
POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF MASSES. NO NORTH KOREAN PARTICI-  
PATION EVIDENT IN PUBLIC CEREMONIES. FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN  
DOMINATED GUEST LIST. ONLY GUINEA SENT OFFICIAL REPRESENTA-

TION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S LET-IT-ALL-HANG-OUT ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL GNASSINGBE EYADEMA'S ASSUMPTION OF THE TOGOLESE PRESIDENCY WAS CELEBRATED, THE 1978 CELEBRATION WAS RELATIVELY MUTED AND MATTER OF FACT. THE THEME OF THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WAS DEVELOPMENT. SIGNIFICANTLY TV COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS OF THE CELEBRATION ENDED WITH THE IDEA THAT IT WAS NOT TIME TO GET BACK TO WGRK AND TO UNDERTAKE THE TASKS THAT LIE BEFORE THE NATION. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, THE GROWTH OF THE RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAISE AS AN "IDEAL FRAMEWORK" FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY WAS CITED. ECONOMICALLY, THE NECESSITY OF RELYING ON THE NATION'S OWN RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURE, FOR DEVELOPMENT WAS STRESSED.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE, THE CORNERSTONE OF A \$55 MILLION 120 MEGAWATT SWISS-FINANCED POWER PLANT WAS LAID DURING THE CEREMONIES. (EXISTING POWER FACILITIES PRODUCE ONLY SEVEN MEGAWATTS. INTERRUPTIONS IN POWER SUPPLIED FROM GHANA'S AKOSOMBO FACILITY ARE FREQUENT.) THE PLANT IS TO BE LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE TOGOLESE REFINERY AND BE FUELED BY IT.

3. DEDICATION NEWLY-COMMISSIONED ONE MILLION TON PER ANNUM BRITISH-FINANCED AND BUILT REFINERY WAS CENTERPIECE OF FESTIVITIES. STRONG CONTINGENT OF BRITONS REPRESENTING  
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HUMPHREY AND GLASGOW ENGINEERING COMPANY AND WILLIAM PRESS INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ATTENDED ALL FESTIVITIES. CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF THESE COMPANIES WERE DECORATED AT STADIUM CEREMONY AND SAT AT HEAD TABLE AT STATE BANQUET. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WEISSER COMPANY OF HAMBURG, WHICH HAS CONTRACTED TO PURCHASE ALL TOGOLESE REFINED PRODUCT, ALSO GIVEN PLACES OF HONOR DURING CEREMONIES (MARKET FOR FUEL OIL IS US EAST COAST). FRANCO-LEBANESE FINANCIERS EDDE AND TABET (SEE LOME 139) RECEIVED DECORATIONS ADDITIONALLY.

4. IN CONTRAST TO STRONG BUSINESS CONTINGENT, ACCORDING TO TOGO PRESSE GUINEA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FILLY CISSOKO WAS "THE ONLY FOREIGN POLITICAL PERSONALITY" WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CELEBRATION. (HE WAS ALSO DECORATED). AN EIGHT-PERSON DELEGATION HEADED BY YANG KAI, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF SHANGHAI, PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENTS AS THE GUESTS OF THE MAYOR OF LOME. NORTH KOREA WAS REPRESENTED AT THE CHARGE LEVEL, AND THERE WAS NO DPRK INVOLVEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STADIUM CEREMONY AS IN PAST YEARS. THIS PRESUMABLY REFLECTS RECENT STRAINS IN TOGOLESE-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS OVER DPRK INVOLVEMENT IN BENIN.

5. POLITICAL "ANIMATION" (THE CHANTING BY RANKS OF SIMILARLY DRESSED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF POLITICAL SLOGANS SET TO TRADITIONAL DANCE RHYTHMS AND ACCOMPANIED BY DRUMS AND ELECTRIC GUITARS) DOMINATED PUBLIC CEREMONIES. THE FINALS OF A CONTEST TO DISCOVER THE BEST ANIMATORS IN THE NATION WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CEREMONY IN EYADEMA STADIUM ON JANUARY 13. THERE WERE OVER THREE HOURS OF EAR-SPLITTING PRESENTATIONS BY SEVEN GROUPS. CULT OF PERSONALITY PRAISE OF EYADEMA WAS THE UNRELENTING THEME. EVEN THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS DEDICATED TO ANIMATION AS A MEANS OF RAISING POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS, VISIBLY WILTED AS THE MORNING WORE ON. LATER THAT NIGHT ANIMATION CONTINUED DURING THE STATE BANQUET WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A CLOSED HALL AND THE DECIBEL LEVEL APPEARED

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EVEN TO TURN THE CHAMPAGNE FLAT.

6. EYADEMA'S SPEECH ON HIS ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY IS BEING FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM. HE PRAISED THE RPT AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATION AND STRESSED THE THEMES OF DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE. THE SPEECH CALLED FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST MERCENARIES AND ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, OF THE TOGOLESE REVOLUTION. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED HIS PRACTICE IN RECENT YEARS OF ANNOUNCING THE EXEMPTION OF PEASANTS FROM THE "CIVIC" TAX. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUBVENTIONS TO STUDENTS BOTH IN TOGO AND ABROAD WOULD BE RAISED BY 20 PERCENT. (THE LATTER ACTION WAS CELEBRATED IN THE JANUARY 17 TOGO PRESSE WITH A CAREFULLY POSED PICTURE OF A PRO-EYADEMA STUDENT DEMONSTRATION.)

7. COMMENT: EYADEMA AND THE TOGOLESE PEOPLE APPEAR COMFORTABLE AFTER AN ELEVEN YEAR RELATIONSHIP DURING WHICH HE HAS EXERCISED AN AUTHORITARIAN AND EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP WHICH HAS LED TO NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE REMAINS VERY MUCH A DEMANDING MILITARY LEADER AS WELL AS A DEFT POLITICIAN. HE IS 42 YEARS OLD, IN GOOD HEALTH, AND SHOWS NO SIGN THAT HIS ENJOYMENT OF POWER HAS LESSENED. PALMER

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## Message Attributes

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